



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

Southern Region
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DWR HOLDS SECOND AIS CHECKPOINT AT ST. GEORGE PORT OF ENTRY

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Washington County

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State Parks, and the Utah Department of Transportation teamed up again to hold a second checkpoint targeting those who might introduce aquatic invasive species into Utah waterways. Held on Friday, June 17, along Interstate 15 at the St. George Port of Entry, the purpose of the checkpoint was to interdict watercraft infested with Zebra/Quagga Mussels. This effort is being undertaken to protect state water resources and critical infrastructure.

All vessels were thoroughly inspected for the presence of Mussels, and those that had been utilized in infested waters recently were decontaminated as per procedure.

Lieutenant Scott Dalebout reported, "We had a total of 27 watercraft come through the checkpoint. Of these, 12 had recently been in waters known to be infested with Mussels. These boats were decontaminated with high temperature pressure washers." No adult mussels were found, but four of the watercraft had been on infested waters earlier in the day. Juvenile Mussels, known as veligers, are microscopic and can survive in small quantities of water left in the vessels after leaving a waterway. When that water is transferred to another water body, the risk of infestations becomes significant.

Lieutenant Dalebout advised that Aquatic Invasive Species are a constant and daily threat to the waters of Utah. It's imperative that boaters remember to clean, drain, and dry their vessels after leaving any water body to prevent the spread of these harmful species.



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